

PARISH CHURCH NEWS

**Ss. Peter & Paul, Clare
with St. Mary the Virgin, Poslingford**

The Rev'd Mark Woodrow

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(Usual Rest Day: Monday)

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July 2025



St. Thomas the Apostle

Feast Day: 3 July

Rector's Ramblings – July 2025 (Anything but Ordinary)

Dear Friends,

As July 2025 dawns, the sun hangs high in the sky, and our gardens, parks, and even the roadside verges are bursting with life (or as dry as a bone – depending on what the weather is doing!). It's a truly glorious time of year, and for us in the Church, it marks a significant period within our liturgical calendar: Ordinary Time.

For some, "Ordinary Time" might sound, well, a little... ordinary. It's not Advent with its hopeful anticipation, nor Christmas with its joyous celebration. It's not the solemn reflection of Lent, nor the triumphant glory of Easter. Yet, within its very "ordinariness" lies a profound beauty and a vital spiritual truth. This is the longest season of the Church year, stretching from Pentecost until Advent, and it is precisely in this extended period that we are called to growth.

Think of our gardens. They don't suddenly bloom overnight in a magnificent explosion. They require consistent care, day after day, through the seemingly mundane tasks of watering, weeding, and nurturing. It's in these ordinary moments that the roots deepen, the stems strengthen, and the buds slowly, steadily, begin to form. And then, almost imperceptibly, the vibrant colours and fragrances emerge.

Spiritually, Ordinary Time is much the same. It's a season for deepening our roots in faith, for strengthening our relationship with God through daily prayer, reflection, and acts of loving kindness. It's not about grand, dramatic pronouncements, but about the quiet, consistent work of discipleship. It's about integrating our faith into the fabric of our everyday lives – in our interactions with family and friends, in our work, in our leisure.

This July, as the Summer days stretch out before us, let us embrace this opportunity for growth. Perhaps it's a chance to spend a few extra minutes each day in quiet prayer, simply listening for God's voice amidst the summer hum. Or maybe it's an invitation to pick up that spiritual book you've been meaning to read, allowing its wisdom to nourish your soul. For others, it might be about consciously seeking out opportunities to serve others in our community, offering a helping hand or a listening ear.

The readings we hear during Ordinary Time often focus on the teachings of Jesus, his parables, and his ministry. These are not just stories from a distant past; they are living words that invite us to reflect on how we are living our lives now. Are we truly seeking to follow Christ's example in all that we do? Are we allowing his

love to transform us, day by day, into more compassionate, more joyful, more faithful individuals?

This “ordinary” season is far from mundane. It is a sacred time for spiritual development, a period where, like the natural world around us, we are called to flourish. So, as you enjoy the (hopefully) warmth of July, the longer evenings, and the beauty of creation, take a moment to consider how you might cultivate your own spiritual garden. May this July be a truly blessed and fruitful season of growth for each and every one of us.

With every blessing,

Mark

The Rev'd Mark Woodrow (Rector)

New Diocesan Bishop Announced



It was announced on Friday 27th June, that The Rt Revd Dr Joanne Grenfell, currently the Bishop of Stepney, an area bishop in the Diocese of London, since 2019, is to be the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

Bishop Joanne succeeds the Rt Revd Martin Seeley who retired after 10 years in the county earlier this year and who was awarded the Suffolk Medal on the 21st June 2025 for his commitment to the county, leading with wisdom and humility.

Married with three children, Bishop Joanne will be the first woman to lead the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese.

A statement from Downing Street said: *"The King has approved the nomination of The Right Reverend Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell, Area Bishop of Stepney, in the Diocese of London, for election as Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, in succession to The Right Reverend Martin Alan Seeley, following his retirement."*

A huge welcome from Suffolk

Bishop Graeme Knowles, who is currently acting Bishop and a former diocesan bishop and Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, said: *"We are delighted with the appointment of Joanne who will bring with her a rich mixture of experience in the Church. This includes her invaluable insight into safeguarding where since 2023 she has been lead bishop for safeguarding and chair of the National Safeguarding Steering Group. Joanne will take up her position in Suffolk later this year and in the meantime we will be making preparations in the diocese to ensure a smooth handover and a very warm Suffolk welcome."*

The Diocesan Secretary, Gary Peverley, said: *"Suffolk is an amazing place and our county welcomes Bishop Joanne with open arms. Churches and organisations are working together to serve the community and express their faith and the part the Bishop plays within that is key. Bishop Joanne is joining a diocese with a strategy and a plan for growth."*

A tour of the diocese

Bishop Joanne spent Friday in Suffolk beginning to meet people within the diocese, including St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds, Debenham Church of England High School, meeting Rural Deans from across the Diocese as well as church member of St Michael's Church in Framlingham, and at a community outreach project in St Peter's Church, Stoke Park, Ipswich on the day of the announcement of her new role.

Bishop Joanne is looking forward to meeting so many more people when she starts in post towards the end of the year and is keen to see more young people leading within the Church and their communities, working alongside those with many years of experience.

She said: *"I am honoured to be called to this role. This is a beautiful diocese, with truly lovely people, and a grounded Suffolk sense of service and humility. I had the privilege of preaching at the Aldeburgh Festival a couple of weeks ago and I know I have so much to learn and understand about Suffolk."* *"What I'm already discovering is how warm and welcoming people are. I'm excited about getting to know Suffolk and its people better."*

She added: *"I enjoy building diverse teams full of people who have much better*

ideas than I would ever have on my own. I hope to develop a culture where we can challenge and support each other to do the best we can to live out the good news of Jesus Christ in this place. I've had to do some creative strategic work in areas where I've served previously, including developing a vision, putting together funding applications, and overseeing the implementation of mission projects to help the church reach new people, young people, and people from lower income communities. God has shown us how the Church can grow, across different traditions and contexts. I'm keen to join in with what you are already doing here with Growing in God, Lightwave, and Inspiring Ipswich, and to work out together what God is calling us to next."

About Bishop Joanne

Bishop Joanne, who like Bishop Martin will become a member of the House of Lords where she will be able to champion issues close to Suffolk's heart, said: "I care deeply about our churches being as healthy and safe as possible, in policies, practice, recruitment, training, and, most importantly in culture.

"We can all contribute to a culture where victims and survivors are seen, heard, cared for, and learned from," she says, adding, "I am looking forward to working with safeguarding professionals and volunteers across the diocese."

Prior to her role as Bishop of Stepney she served as Archdeacon in the Diocese of Portsmouth, Residentiary Canon and Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of Sheffield, and as an inner-city parish priest in Sheffield and Liverpool. She trained for ordination at Westcott House in Cambridge.

Bishop Joanne, who studied at Oriel College, Oxford and the University of British Columbia, Canada and was a lecturer in English at Oxford until 1998, is married to the Revd Dr James Grenfell, 55, Chaplain to the University of East London; he will remain in his current role.

It is anticipated that Bishop Joanne will start in her new position during the autumn.

FROM THE REGISTERS OF CLARE & POSLINGFORD

June 2025

Clare : Sofia Daisy James-Cairns *(Baptism in Parish Church)*



Robert Bakewell 1725-1795

Who was Robert Bakewell? He was a pioneer of the Agricultural Revolution of the 18th century.

He was born in 1725, the year of the first performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and was brought up on his father's farm in Dishley, Leicestershire. He travelled widely in his youth and inherited his father's farm in 1760, the year after George Frederick Handel died.

There, he introduced the idea of selective breeding of sheep and cattle and the recording of pedigrees. He took Lincoln Longwool sheep and improved them to create the Dishley Leicester/English Leicester/Leicester Longwool. This was a large, long fleeced animal, rams (male sheep) weighing over 140 lb and ewes (female sheep) over 110lb. The long (up to 12 inches) fleece had a sheen or lustre to it and a fine crimp (curl). Most of the sheep were white, but the occasional black one appeared, which he then bred back in as they helped with the fineness of the wool. For many years the black sheep were frowned upon, but more recently their fleeces have become very popular with hand spinners because of the variegation of the colours, so since 1986, black sheep can now be registered.



He bred Longhorn heifers to a Westmoreland bull to create the Dishley Longhorn, a beef animal.

He improved the Black Cart Horse to create the Shire Horse.

He introduced irrigation on his farm.

He followed the example set by Charles (Turnip) Townsend and grew turnips as animal feed and used animal manure to

fertilise his pasture. He died in 1795, the same year as Josiah Wedgwood died.

To celebrate 300 years since his birth, Leicester Longwool sheep breeders from around the world recently gathered for a conference around Dishley. There was a big display of all things Leicester Longwool at the Rutland show, The following day we had a trip to Dishley Grange, where we were granted a tour of the farmhouse where Robert Bakewell had lived, much of it still as it had been in his time. Ditto the barns, though most of these have now been 'diversified' into

business units. We visited their private chapel, where Robert Bakewell is buried and, as one of our breeders is a local vicar, held a short service of remembrance. I was asked to read the story of the lost sheep – (one of the visitors remarked afterwards that, if one of his sheep went astray, he would be pretty sure the rest of the flock would follow – an alternative theme for a sermon?). 60 people from 5 nations crammed into a chapel about 12 foot by 30 foot, singing ‘The Lord’s my shepherd’ and ‘We plough the fields and scatter’ was very moving and would have raised the roof, had the roof still been there to be raised.



This was followed by a trip to a farm breeding Dishley Longhorns. We were introduced to their prize cow and shown her finer point including her ‘bonnet horns’.

We were then shown the rest of the herd, who were fascinated by this trailer load of people being drive across their field. Fortunately, they are a very friendly breed and just wanted to come and say hello and have their noses stroked.

There followed 2 days of talking about sheep. How the different countries tried to make money from the breed, their uses for the wool and how the meat was marketed. There were discussions on the way forward and how to protect the breed for posterity. One of the Australians present was a 5th generation Leicester Longwool (English Leicester) breeder, his great-great-grandfather having moved literally ‘lock, stock and barrel’ to Tasmania in 1871. One surprise was that there are more English Leicester sheep in Sweden than there are in UK. What was noticeable was the comradeship between delegates from all 5 nations – the young Swedish boy who had very little English volunteering to take part in the Young People’s discussion (google translate on his phone proved very useful) - the open discussion of successes and failures of wool projects – the united belief that we should be saving skin samples in a gene bank to protect the breed in the future and the absolute certainty that we should all meet again in 3/4/5 years time.

Jayne Drinkwater

“A present is not yours until you have thanked for it”

Advice from Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout Movement.

So... a slightly overwhelmed Jean & Don want to say a heartfelt ‘thank you’ for all the generous gifts given to us by friends and well-wishers at church and in the Parish.

We have enjoyed our time as churchwardens (despite some of the ups and downs) in an eventful period in our church’s history. The COVID pandemic, was, I sincerely hope, a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence and the compulsory closures of the church a one-off.

We had an Interregnum of several months during which we worried whether there would be a celebrant some Sundays! Two Royal deaths with a set protocol to be followed, then a Coronation and a new Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

During the last 7 years the church has had substantial repairs and renovations - always ongoing with an ancient building.

Despite rumours we are not planning to go anywhere and will continue to support the new churchwardens and the church in slightly different ways.

Jean

Our outgoing churchwardens’ retirement was marked in formal fashion in the church with the handing over a card and other gift items at the June Coffee Morning. No doubt, this happy occasion will ever hereafter be known as “The Presentation in the Temple.” - Ed.

The Church Shop

After many years of devoted commitment to the running of the Church Shop, Olivia has now decided that the time has come to throw in the managerial towel. During her time in charge of this important focus of greeting (and income) the Shop has greatly prospered thanks to her imaginative product selection with its inviting array of goods, all tastefully displayed and offered at affordable prices – cards, fridge magnets, tea towels, knitted goods, chutneys, jams and marmalades – these and numerous other items have attracted many a happy customer, not least church members themselves, and we sincerely thank Olivia for all her efforts in this important focus of outreach and welcome.

The Shop, however, continues and will now be run by Jayne Drinkwater, Sue Long and the (geographically) remote, but ever enthusiastic, Chris Lord. We wish them well in their ongoing efforts and are sure the Shop will go from strength to strength (and from chutney to chutney). - Ed.

The Bad Thing – John Wain

Sometimes just being alone seems the bad thing
Solitude can swell until it blocks the sun,
It hurts so much, even fear, even worrying
Over the past and future, get stifled. It has won,
You think; this is the bad thing, it is here.
Then sense comes; you go to sleep, or have
Some food, write a letter or work, get something clear.
Solitude shrinks; you are not all its slave.

Then you think: the bad thing inhabits yourself.
Just being alone is nothing; not pain, not balm.
Escape, into poem, into pub, wanting a friend
Is not avoiding the bad thing. The high shelf
Where you stacked the bad thing, hoping for calm,
Broke. It rolled down. It follows you to the end.

Best wishes
Jayne



A reminder that the next concert in this very popular and successful series is scheduled for Saturday, 19 July, at which the soloist will be the flautist Brenda Dykes, accompanied by Christopher Moore. Coffee will be served from 11 a.m. with the concert beginning at 11.30am.

Magna est Veritas

Here, in this little bay,
Full of tumultuous life and great repose,
Where, twice a day,
The purposeless, glad ocean comes and goes,
Under high cliffs, and far from the huge town,
I sit me down.
For want of me the world's course will not fail:
When all its work is done, the lie shall rot;
The truth is great, and shall prevail,
When none cares whether it prevail or not.

Coventry Patmore (1823 – 1896)
(written at Hastings, where he lived from 1875 to 1891)

Cuppa, Cake & Community Spirit in Poslingford



A beautiful sunny day provided the perfect backdrop for a relaxed afternoon of tea, cake, and conversation in Poslingford Church, a cool and welcoming retreat from the heat. Guests were treated to an irresistible array of homemade cakes, so plentiful that many took extras home to share with their families. The warm, inviting atmosphere brought together familiar faces and new ones alike, with even a couple of friendly dogs joining in the fun! The afternoon also offered an opportunity for kindness, as generous donations helped restock the Community Pantry – a small but vital gesture that makes a big difference. With good company, delicious treats, and a shared sense of purpose, it was a day that perfectly captured the spirit of community.



Some upcoming events across the Diocese

Quiet Day with Bishop Tim Stevens

Thursday 10th July, 10.00am for 10.30am start to 3.30pm

The Barn, The Rookery, Hollesley Road, Eyke IP12 2RR

Starting with a celebration of the Eucharist, this day will be considering the motto of the Carthusian Order - 'The Cross stands firm while the world turns' - exploring Christian living in a profoundly uncertain world. Please bring food to share at lunch-time - drinks will be provided. Participants are welcome to stroll in the delightful gardens. Please book with Michael Wilde: 01284 767415 or email cormack246@gmail.com. A £10 donation made on the day towards costs would be very much appreciated.

Some upcoming events across the Benefice

Teddy Bear Parachute Jump Competition from Cavendish Church Tower

Saturday 5th July 2-4pm



Other activities:

- Games in the Churchyard, including a Church Mouse Trail
- Tower open to visitors outside of the jumping period which will run from 3pm
- Refreshments available in the Church, with Rodney Bullock entertaining with organ music
- Raffle

Stour Valley Benefice - Services for July 2025

Sunday, 6th July

Third Sunday after Trinity

Stoke by Clare:	09:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
Cavendish:	10:30	Morning Prayer	<i>Led by Mrs Barbara Hill</i>
Clare:	11:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
Cavendish:	13:00	Baptism – Michael Argent	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
Cavendish:	13:30	Wedding – Baker & Argent	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>

Saturday, 12th July

Clare:	11:00	Baptism – Oliver McGarry	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
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Sunday, 13th July

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Stoke by Clare:	09:00	Morning Prayer	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
Hundon:	09:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Dr Karen Smith</i>
Cavendish:	10:30	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Dr Karen Smith</i>
Clare:	16:00	Evensong	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>

Sunday, 20th July

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Stoke by Clare:	09:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Liz Paxton</i>
Cavendish:	10:30	Morning Prayer	<i>Led by The Revd Dr Karen Smith</i>
Clare:	11:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Liz Paxton</i>
Poslingford:	16:00	Evensong	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>

Sunday, 27th July

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Stoke by Clare:	09:00	Morning Prayer	<i>Led by The Revd Dr Karen Smith</i>
Wixoe	09:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
Cavendish:	10:30	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Dr Karen Smith</i>
Clare:	11:00	Morning Prayer	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
Hundon:	18:00	Evening Prayer	<i>Led by The Revd Liz Paxton</i>

Sunday, 3rd August

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Stoke by Clare:	09:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>
Cavendish:	10:30	Morning Prayer	<i>Led by Mrs Barbara Hill</i>
Clare:	11:00	Holy Communion	<i>Led by The Revd Mark Woodrow</i>

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**The closing date for contributions to the Magazine is now the 25th of the month
(for inclusion in the next month's issue)**